

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/NE: JPOWENS
APPROVED BY EUR: MR. HARTMAN
EUR/NE:WABUELL, JR.
EUR:WSTABLER
S/S:DWMILLER

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R 090105Z MAR 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 047926

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS:PFOR, SW
SUBJECT:U.S.-SWEDISH RELATIONS

1. SWEDISH CHARGE LEIFLAND, AT HIS REQUEST, CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN AFTERNOON OF MARCH 7. LEIFLAND SAID HE WOULD BE DEPARTING TWO DAYS LATER FOR MEETING IN STOCKHOLM MARCH 11-12 OF SWEDISH AMBASSADORS ASSIGNED TO NORTH AMERICA, WESTERN AND EASTERN EUROPE. MAIN PURPOSE OF GATHERING, LEIFLAND NOTED, WAS TO ENABLE NEWLY APPOINTED FOREIGN MINISTER, SVEN ANDERSSON, TO BECOME ACQUAINTED WITH THE VARIOUS SWEDISH AMBASSADORS.

2. FOLLOWING AMBASSADORS MEETING, LEIFLAND CONTINUED, HE WOULD BE MEETING PRIVATELY WITH ANDERSSON AND, IN ALL PROBABILITY, WITH PRIME MINISTER PALME TO DISCUSS CURRENT STATE OF U.S.-SWEDISH RELATIONS. THEREFORE, LEIFLAND SAID HE HAD REQUESTED MEETING WITH HARTMAN IN ORDER TO CONVEY TO HIS GOVERNMENT LATEST U.S. THINKING ON STATUS OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS.

3. HARTMAN REPLIED THAT OFFICIALLY HE COULD NOT ADD ANY-
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THING AT THIS POINT TO PREVIOUS STATEMENTS THAT STUDY OF OUR RELATIONS WITH SWEDEN IS UNDER WAY. HOWEVER, HARTMAN SAID HE COULD TELL LEIFLAND (AND GOS) THAT THE DISCUSSIONS WITHIN USG ARE PROGRESSING IN A "POSITIVE

DIRECTION", AND THAT THERE HAS BEEN A DECISION IN PRINCIPLE TO RETURN TO FULL NORMAL RELATIONS WITH SWEDEN. DISCUSSIONS ARE NOW CENTERING ON NAMES OF CANDIDATES FOR AMBASSADOR IN STOCKHOLM. HOWEVER, FOR PRESENT, HARTMAN ADDED, IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO MAKE A PUBLIC STATEMENT.

4. LEIFLAND POINTED OUT THAT ON MARCH 20, THERE WOULD BE ANNUAL DEBATE IN SWEDISH PARLIAMENT ON FOREIGN POLICY, AND PALME AND ANDERSSON WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE ASKED ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN U.S.-SWEDISH RELATIONS WHICH WOULD PLACE THEM IN DIFFICULT POSITION IF THEY COULD SAY NOTHING. HARTMAN PROMISED THAT USG WOULD LOOK INTO THE MATTER, AND TRY TO GET SOMETHING TO SWEDISH FOREIGN MINISTRY EITHER FOR IT TO USE PUBLICLY DURING DEBATE OR FOR ITS OWN INFORMATION WHICH MIGHT BE OF HELP IN ANSWERING QUERIES.

5. ASKED FOR USG REACTION TO EDELSTAM VISIT, HARTMAN REPLIED THAT SO FAR THERE HAD BEEN NO NEGATIVE IMPACT, ALTHOUGH WE ARE STILL "KEEPING OUR FINGERS CROSSED". LEIFLAND CONCLUDED WITH OBSERVATION THAT HIS OWN RELATIONS WITH USG WERE MUCH BETTER THAN WITH EDELSTAM. KISSINGER

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